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5 March 1959

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NOTE BY THE SECRETARIES

to the

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

on

PREPARATORY MEASURES FOR THE BERLIN CRISIS (C)

The enclosed memorandum by the Commandant of the Marine Corps, dated 5 March 1959, is hereby referred to the J-3 for consideration in connection with the study directed by SM-257-59, as a matter of priority.

H. L. HILLYARD,

J. O. COBB,

Joint Secretariat.

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(4 Mar 59)

E N C L O S U R E

MEMORANDUM BY THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

for the
JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

on

RECOMMENDED MARINE CORPS ACTIONS TO IMPROVE READINESS TO MEET
POSSIBILITY OF GENERAL WAR RESULTING FROM BERLIN CRISIS

Serial 0003A6459

5 March 1959

1. In the course of the meeting of 4 March 1959 the Joint Chiefs of Staff agreed to provide a list of recommended actions which each Service should undertake immediately to improve their readiness to meet the possibility of general war arising from the Berlin Crisis.

2. As a basic premise the Fleet Marine Forces should be deployed to forward positions or embarked and at sea not later than 20 May 1959.

3. To attain this posture of general war readiness the following specific actions are recommended for immediate implementation:

a. Build the Marine Corps' 3 Division/Wing Teams and supporting establishment up to full T/O strength by:

(1) Limited mobilization of the Marine Corps Reserve,

(2) Holding all personnel at convenience of the government.

b. Have alternate CP fully operational by 1 May 1959.

c. Curtail or cancel all non-essential commitments for Marine Corps units.

d. Increase the present amphibious shipping to provide, by 1 May, a total amphibious lift for two T/O strength division/wing teams, and deploy one division/wing lift to each ocean.

e. Deploy the advance echelon of the 2d MAGTF (consisting of 1/3 division wing/team) to CINCUER by 20 May 1959 and embark the balance of the division/wing team so as to be ready for sea not later than 20 May 1959.

f. Alert 1st Marine Division/3d Marine Aircraft Wing for movement.

g. Embark and sail the 1st Marine Brigade to the Western Pacific for assignment to TF 79.

h. Alert 3d Marine Division/1st Marine Aircraft Wing for embarkation to be ready for sea not later than 20 May 1959.